



TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
B O A R D O F H E A L T H
TOWN HALL
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ROOM #204
UXBRIDGE, MA 01569
508-278-8604

Date: September 24, 2007

Re: Suspension of Dead Bird and Mosquito Arbovirus Surveillance Activities

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) will be discontinuing dead bird collection and testing and the dead bird reporting option on the Public Health Information Line as of September 28, 2007.

Routine mosquito collections by the nine Mosquito Control Projects are set to end on September 28, 2007. Routine mosquito collections by MDPH are set to end October 12, 2007.

The dates above are subject to change if necessary. MDPH performs testing for West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus infection in horse and human specimens year-round.

Cooler weather means that mosquitoes are much less active and mosquito breeding is down. The risk of EEE is reduced at this time of year, but will continue until the first hard frosts. The risk of WNV infection may continue into November, because the mosquitoes that carry WNV breed in puddles and standing water that may persist in warmer urban environments. Although mosquito numbers are currently down, **the public should be advised to continue basic precautions to avoid mosquito bites until the first hard frost.**

Please refer your residents to the MDPH Arbovirus website www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm for educational materials and current surveillance information.